

## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 15 June 2018

Present:

Samantha Box, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Mr Lyall Cairns, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Dr Samantha Cope, New Forest District Council  
Mr Bryan Curtis, Chairman of the Coastal Group Network  
Nick Gray, Environment Agency  
Mr Nick Hardiman, Environment Agency  
Dominic Henly, Chichester District Council  
Mr Matt Hosey, Borough of Poole Council  
Jenny Jakeways, Isle of Wight Council  
Angela Marlow, Natural England  
Vincent May, Wessex Regional Flood and Coast Committee  
Stuart McVey, Channel Coastal Observatory  
Matthew Penny, Dorset Council Partnership  
David Picksley, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Alex Powell, Environment Agency  
Mr Stevyn Ricketts, Gosport Borough Council  
Mark Stratton, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Mr Neil Watson, Environment Agency

### 17 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Bridget Betts, Gordon Wilkinson and Dave Robson.

### 18 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 16 March 2018 (Paper A)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 16 March 2018 be set as a correct record.

### 19 Notification of Election of Officers

Officers were advised that the terms of office for the current Chairman of the Group, Vice-Chairmen and Chairman of the Research Sub-Group were due to expire in September and elections would be held at the Group meeting in September 2018.

The Chairman encouraged all those interested in a role to put their name forward.

It was AGREED that the formal process for the election of office bearers would be circulated to members, with a call for nominations ahead of the September meeting.

## **20 SCOPAC Membership Charges Recommendation (Paper B)**

The Chairman invited Lyall Cairns to introduce the SCOPAC / SCG Finance Plans. The documents detailed the year-end budget report for 2017/18, the budget for 2018/19 and the proposed budgets for 2019/20.

The financial position showed that there was a predicted deficit of approximately £20,000 for the 2019/20 financial year, which officers agreed was an unsustainable position.

The Group held a detailed discussion on the options for negating the deficit, which included raising subscription fees, reprioritising the Group's workload and deferring specific research projects.

While some officers highlighted the importance of raising subscription fees for SCOPAC members, others felt that this may lead to a reduced membership, especially in the context of the reducing funds for local authorities in the SCOPAC region. Officers also advised that there may be opportunities to bid for external funding, including possible bids to RFCC's for tactical funds towards projects with tangible outcomes. A brochure showcasing the work of the Group would be beneficial for any funding bid.

Officers were minded for SCOPAC subscription fees to remain the same for the next year, but that an item be added to the next Group meeting to discuss income methods for the Group.

Officers were also minded to defer the low height seawalls and Ebb data study research projects to the 2020/21 financial year, unless contributions from external funding streams can be sourced.

It was agreed that the debate be tabled for further discussion at Item 7.

## **21 Chairman's Report and National Updates (Neil Watson - Presentation / Paper C)**

The Chairman provided an update on activities since the previous meeting. The update included the following key points:

- Coastal Chairs Meeting, 18 April – The meeting had discussed a range of issues, including local authority funding, SMPs and feedback on RMD. In relation to the review of Coastal Asset Data, a business case for the coastal base asset system had been signed-off but there was currently no funding.

- Coastal Chair Hot Topics – Themes were developing at a national level, with specific issues to be delegated to Chairs to lead in these areas. Topics such as funding and concerns over skills and capacity were present on a national scale.
- FCERM Update, June 2018 – The update detailed the development of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, the early preparations for the next 6 year FCRM capital programme and Next Generation Supplier Arrangements.

## **22 Research Report (Sam Cope - Paper D)**

The Chairman invited Dr Samantha Cope to give an overview on the progress of the Research Programme. The update included details of on-going research projects and those that had reached completion.

The following studies were discussed:

- Beach response in front of structures in open coast – Monitors in Southsea were fully exposed or lost following the impact of storm events in late 2017/early 2018. Further tests would be carried out prior to presenting results to SCOPAC in October 2018.
- 2018 – 2020 Minor Projects – The three projects would commence in the current financial year and the scope of the projects would be uploaded to the SCOPAC website.
- Monitoring of Poole Nearshore Replenishment Trials – The final report had been signed off and could be viewed online.
- Scanning of Historical Aerial Photography – Year 2 of the project would be managed by Alex Hillawi from the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership. Officers were requested to bring prints from local authorities to SCOPAC / SCG meetings to be collected, and it was suggested that an inventory be circulated detailing photos already received to avoid duplication.
- Dismantling of Timber Groynes – Three out of five reports were ready to be uploaded and Jon Williams would present the final findings at SCOPAC. Opportunities for efficiency savings had already been realised with the recycling of groyne materials.
- CIRIA Groynes in Coastal Management Manual – Peter Ferguson will provide representation for the Group on this project and had submitted a report prepared by the late Dr Andy Bradbury for inclusion in the manual.
- SCOPAC Contaminated Land Study – The update detailed the progress of the study, which included the development of a GIS database of landfill sites at risk in the SCOPAC region and the production of case studies highlighting the key issues. It was AGREED that:

- Neil Watson would raise the issue at the next RFCC Chairs Meeting on 25 June
- The issue would be raised to the LGA Coastal SIG

Officers also discussed the need for a local authority champion on the matter, as this was a policy issue for authorities. It was key to maintain the profile of the issue, including raising this at the management of landfill sites workshop on 5 July (as detailed on page 23 of the agenda).

- Vegetated Shingle Study – The final report would be submitted to Natural England for comment before circulation and presentation to the Group and SCOPAC.

It was AGREED that the design of the new SCG / SCOPAC website would be circulated to officers.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11.40am and reconvened at 11.50am**

### **23 SCG Action Plan (Lyall Cairns / Mark Stratton - Paper E)**

The Chairman invited Lyall Cairns to introduce the SCG Action Plan. The Plan detailed the priorities of the Group and identified key criteria such as current progress, lead officer and resource implications.

The Group held a detailed discussion on the items within the Action Plan and debated the prioritisation of these tasks.

Officers again recognised the need to address the financial pressures that had been presented in Item 4, but concerns were raised over raising subscription fees and over diminishing resources for supporting projects. It was preferable for the Group to look for opportunities to bid for funding, while research projects such as the low height seawalls and Ebb data study would be deferred if alternative funding could not be sourced.

It was AGREED that;

- The Group endorse the priorities as set out in the SCG Action Plan subject to the above amendments;
- Mark Stratton to circulate updated Action Plan to the Group;
- The SCG Action Plan form an item at each Group meeting. This item would include an invitation for all lead officers to update the Group on the progress of their items, and advise on any future actions;
- A promotional brochure highlighting the benefits of the Group be produced to aid any future bids for funding (to be set out in a similar style to Local Levy Fact Sheet format);
- Officers discuss future funding assumptions with local authorities;

- An item be added to the next meeting to discuss the future funding model for the Group;
- The Group aim for a 10% reserve fund in future budgets; and
- The updated business plan be published on the website.

#### **24 SCG Programme Management Tool (Mark Stratton)**

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to introduce the item and provide an update on the SCG Programme Management Tool.

The Tool was in the process of being updated and officers were requested to submit their returns by the deadline at the end of June. It was commented that returns should also include aspirational items.

Mark Stratton also provided an update from the Southern RFCC Officer Working Group meeting. The meeting had discussed key themes, such as GIA, efficiencies and Local Levy funding bids. There were possible opportunities to bid for funding from the Southern RFCC Programme, with a deadline of late July for bids prior to assessment in August. It was highlighted that the 'Storm Analysis' study could be used to inform a bid for funding from both the Southern RFCC and Wessex RFCC, as the study would impact both areas.

#### **25 2018 FCERM Strategy Update (Mark Stratton)**

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to provide the Group with an update on the 2018 FCERM Strategy. Key questions concerning issues such as funding, the priority of water-based concerns in decision-making considerations and role of stakeholders had been assigned to workstreams of officers to investigate.

Officers commented on the need to articulate coastal issues on a national scale and discussed the possible use of a PR specialist to work on behalf of the Group to produce materials to land this message.

#### **26 Coastal Monitoring Report (Stuart McVey - Paper F)**

The Chairman invited Stuart McVey to introduce the report on the progress of the Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme and update the Group on any further developments.

The Chairman asked that Stuart pass on the Group's thanks and best wishes to Travis Mason, who was retiring from her role at the Channel Coast Observatory.

## **27 SCOPAC Site Visit (Lyll Cairns)**

Lyll Cairns informed the Group of the updated arrangements for the SCOPAC Site Visit on 10 July 2018. The event would include morning presentations in the Mountbatten Centre and a site visit to North Portsea works in the afternoon.

Officers were encouraged to promote the event to members, and to confirm any PPE requirements with Amy Conway.

It was AGREED that invites would be sent to members of both RFCC's.

## **28 MCZs Consultation**

The Group were advised of the consultation of the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones, with responses due by the deadline of 20 July 2018.

It was AGREED that the link to the consultation would be circulated to officers.

## **29 Updates from Members**

Nick Gray advised the Group that the report relating to Habitat Creation was currently awaiting sign-off and would form an item at the next Group meeting.

Lyll Cairns provided an update on the works of the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership, including projects at Hayling Island, Southsea, North Portsea and Gosport.

Matt Hosey informed the Group that Dave Robson would be retiring at the end of July, and would be attending the SCOPAC Site Visit on 10 July. Matt also provided updates on works and changes to the local authority make-up in the Dorset area.

Mark Stratton advised the Group that progress had been made on the Portchester to Paulsgrove Coastal Scheme.

**The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 1.20 pm**